

country to<sup>></sup> which he had been sent. It might at first <sup>M</sup>  
seem

that an important exception to this rule of conduct would have ,i  
to be made when Jefferson's relations with Lafayette are con- ,  
sidered. Lafayette's perplexities as to the course he should  
\*

•  
pursue grew largely out of the sentiments in favor of popular /.  
,

movements acquired by his service in America, and they natu-  
rally appealed to Jefferson's deepest sympathy. He allowed  
himself to be drawn into giving advice by letter as well as orally  
to Lafayette and other Constitutionals, on the proper form  
into which the new government of France should be thrown.

,  
Finally, the conflict between' the monarchy and the popular ,  
,

party assumed moist unexpectedly a phase which, in Jefferson's  
opinion, justified his interposing as a lover of human liberty.  
"I considered," he says, "a successful reformation of govern-  
ment in France as insuring a general reformation through  
Europe, and the resurrection, to. a new life, of their people now  
ground to dust by the abuses of the governing powers. \* \* \*  
I urged, most strenuously, an immediate compromise." He

^  
reduced his ideas to<sup>></sup> definite form in the shape of a Charter of  
Rights, to be signed by the King and every member of the <sup>U</sup>  
three orders of the Assembly. This instrument he sent to M.  
de St. Etienne, a prominent member of the Third Estate, and a  
close friend of the Marquis de Lafayette. It was not adopted,  
but it led to Jefferson's being requested to attend and assist  
in the deliberations of the committee appointed to draft a. Con\*

/  
stitution. Jefferson was always ready to draw up a Constitution,  
but on this occasion his great good sense asserted itself. He  
excused himself from complying with this request, but he did

P  
receive at his own house "a number," to<sup>></sup> give his own words, <sup>n</sup>  
"of leading patriots of honest but differing opinions, sensible of <sup>n</sup>  
the necessity of effecting a condition by mutual sacrifices, know- <sup>Q</sup>  
ing each other, and not afraid, therefore, to unbosom themselves  
<sup>a</sup>

mutually." The residence of the American minister was cer-  
o  
tainly not the. place at which the legislators of France should "

meet, and Jefferson was quick to recognize the fact. His own  
words tell us how he counteracted his indiscretion. "Duties of  
«,r/.i.ili->ofi/-m -uTP-rp nirwr inriimhent on me. I waiter!  
on P-nnnf- \*\*